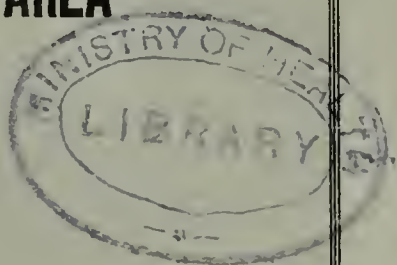


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Axminster Rural
Honiton Borough
Honiton Rural
Seaton Urban

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
No. 2 SANITARY AREA
DEVON
1955



Medical Officer of Health—Duncombe Steele-Perkins					
			Sanitary Inspector	Surveyor	
Axminster Rural	...	L. H. White		F. J. Smith	
Honiton Borough	...	R. B. Bailey		R. B. Bailey	
Honiton Rural	...	F. J. Baxfield		F. J. Baxfield	
Seaton Urban	...	P. Bradley		P. Bradley	

Annual Report

for No. 2 Sanitary Area for 1955

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL, AND
SEATON URBAN.

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS, *Med. Officer of Health.*

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the Year 1955, and which deals with the general Health and Sanitary Administration of No. 2 Sanitary Area of Devon, and I can only repeat what I said in my last report.

The Year has been marked with continued progress in Housing, Water Supplies and greatly improved Sanitation in many parts of the Area, and although there is still a great deal to be done, yet I feel all my Councils have done a great job of work, in improving conditions throughout my Area, and one has to bear in mind, that with the greatly increased building and the provision of piped water supplies, continued expansion of new sewage schemes has become essential, because the moment a piped water supply is put in a village, it becomes essential to deal with the great increase in sewage, and that means an additional outlay for new disposal works. However, this problem is being tackled and in years to come most villages will have their own piped water supply and new sewage disposal works, but it all takes time and a great deal of money.

Although I am not directly concerned with the provision of Water Supplies, I have followed the activities of the East Devon Water Board with very great interest, and I would like to thank them for the courtesy shewn me, in sending me copies of their minutes, and which I study with great interest. I would also draw attention to the marked increase in the purity of water now supplied by the East Devon Water Board to their numerous consumers. There are still one or two black spots, but these are having the serious consideration of the Water Board, and I have no doubt in a short time, these will also be eliminated. My relations with the Board have been very cordial and most helpful, and I acknowledge with many thanks their co-operation in any suggestions I may have to draw their attention to.

The Chart showing the Infectious Diseases cases notified to me during the past year will no doubt be of great interest to my Councillors. I would add that the total number of Infectious Diseases notified to me in 1954 was 163, as compared with a total in 1955 of 591 cases.

1955

	Axminster Rural	Honiton Borough	Honiton Rural	Seaton Urban	Total
Scarlet Fever	9	0	2	3	14
Whooping Cough	17	30	50	0	97
Polio	1	0	1	0	2
Measles	266	88	73	0	427
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6	14	12	4	36
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	1	0	0	2
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	3	1	4
Puerpural Pyrexia	2	0	0	0	2
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	4	1	0	1	6
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0	1	0	1
	<hr/> 306	<hr/> 134	<hr/> 142	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 591

The Year has been marked with rather a large increase in Infectious Disease, but this is in the main due to the Epidemic of Measles, which swept through the whole country, slowly and insidiously, village after village being attacked in turn, and the outbreak lasted for months. In all 427 cases were notified, and I have no doubt many more occurred which were not notified, owing to no doctor being called. Excluding the 427 cases of Measles and the 97 Whooping Cough, these diseases mostly in infants will always be with us, and appear to run in four year cycles, the number of other Infectious cases were remarkably small.

The four cases of food poisoning were so slight they do not call for comment, and the same applies to the 14 cases of Scarlet Fever. It is many years since I have seen a real case of the old fashioned Scarlet Fever, where you were put in an Isolation Hospital for at least six weeks ; now one rarely sends them to hospital.

Two cases of Polio were notified, both of a very mild type. One was a visitor from Surrey and was non-paralytic and quickly recovered, and occurred at Uplyme. The other occurred at Broadhembury, and was not discovered until the patient found he was losing the use of his legs after an attack, of what he thought was mild Influenza. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

Again no cases of Diphtheria have occurred, but there can be no let up in getting every child immunised as far as possible. Having stamped out this terrible disease, it is up to the Health Authorities to continue the good work. I append a very interesting digest of the cases of Diphtheria since 1948, which shows how thoroughly immunisation has mastered this disease.

The incidence of Diphtheria remained much the same in 1955 as in 1954. Since 1948 notifications have fallen from 3,575 to a new low figure of 161 (provisional) for 1955. The following are the figures for deaths and notifications (corrected) for England and Wales since 1948 :—

Year	Deaths	Corrected Notifications
1948	156	3,575
1949	84	1,890
1950	49	962
1951	33	664
1952	32	376
1953	23	266
1954	9	173
1955	11 (provisional)	161 (provisional)

The total of deaths in 1955 includes no "late effects", i.e. those occurring more than a year after the acute episode: in 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 these numbered 3, 9, 3 and 1 respectively.

I feel it is hardly necessary for me to go into detail the various improvements in Sanitation, Water Supplies and Housing, which have been and are still being carried out in the No. 2 Area, the facts are so well known to the Councils concerned, but I would like to congratulate all my Councils on the enterprise and thoroughness of the works completed and in the course of completion. I think very few Areas could compete with the work we have done, and done well.

I would also like to pay my tribute to the work of my four Sanitary Inspectors, they have done their jobs, truly and well, and I greatly appreciate their help and courtesy shewn to me. They are without doubt, the mainstay of our progress, and we are without doubt a very happy family.

Lung Cancer

The number of deaths from Lung Cancer in 1955 show a decrease from 1954, six deaths in all the Area as compared with 7 in 1954, and also the number of deaths from all types of Cancer, including Lungs, was 62, a slight decrease from preceding years, in fact this is about the average for the area.

I append a chart giving the number of cases in my Area for the past five years.

	Lungs					All types of Cancer including Lungs				
	(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955)	(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955)
Axminster Rural Population 14,330	1	3	5	3	1	24	32	28	23	31
Honiton Borough Population 4,550	0	0	4	2	2	1	3	19	8	12
Honiton Rural Population 6,950	0	2	1	2	1	14	15	8	9	10
Seaton Urban Population 2,930	2	0	1	0	2	10	5	6	10	9
	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>62</u>

The 6 cases of Lung Cancer were 5 males, 1 female. The cause of this Lung Cancer has not yet been discovered, but the theory that it is due to smoking cigarettes, to my mind, does not coincide with the facts. Lung Cancer is much greater in the smog areas and it appears to me to be almost a fact that Lung Cancer is due to living in noxious and irritating fumes. If not, may be asked, why do we have so few cases in the clean air of the Rural and Urban Areas.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	52,135 acres
Population	...	...	...	14,330
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£91,455
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£361
No. of Parishes	...	...	...	15

Deaths

1954—(79 Males, 90 Females)	...	...	...	...	169
1955—(100 Males, 100 Females)	...	...	...	...	200

Live Births

1954—(99 Males, 79 Females)	...	...	...	...	178
9 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 178.					
1955—(81 Males, 78 Females)	...	...	...	...	159
6 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 159.					

Still Births

1954—3 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	3
1955—6 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1954—5 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	5
1955—3 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1954—4 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	4
1955—3 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1955 :

	1954	1955
Measles	7	266
Pneumonia	9	6
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	8	17
Scarlet Fever	3	9
Erysipelas	4	1
Typhoid	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1
Dysentery	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	12	4
	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 306

Infectious Disease

It was too good to hope that the wonderful record of last year would stand, but excluding the Measles and Whooping Cough Axminster Rural District has not fared too badly, especially when we take into account that the Urban Area is now joined to the Rural.

A visitor spoilt the record of freedom from Polio, but fortunately it was a very mild case, and quickly recovered.

Food poisoning. No cases were reported, and I would remark here that the standard of cleanliness in shops is much improved, but there is still a long way to go to get the ideal condition, and I have no doubt the new Clean Food Act is going to help a lot. This will, for the first few years, require quite a lot of supervision by the Sanitary Inspector.

Deaths.—These shew an increase for the District, 200 compared with 169 in 1954.

The chief causes of death in the Area were :—	1954	1955
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus	3	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	23
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	34	44
Coronary Disease, Angina	19	23
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	9
Other Heart Disease	24	36
Other Circulatory Disease	7	9
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	7	3
Bronchitis	9	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	4	2
Duodenal Ulcer	4	1
Gastritis and Diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis	3	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	6
Childbirth Abortion	0	0
Congenital Malformation	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	15	16
Motor Accidents	1	0
All other Accidents	2	3
Suicide	2	1
Leukaemia	2	1
Diabetes	1	0
Pregnancy	0	0
Homicide	1	1
	169	200

Births.—These show a considerable drop, 159 as against 178 in 1954, and include 6 illegitimate births.

I have great pleasure in submitting my Sanitary Inspector's (Mr. L. H. White) report, who has done a great job of work these past 12 months, and has been a wonderful help to me in controlling such a large area.

Water Supplies

The five main private water supplies in use in the district have been sampled regularly and their classifications for piped supplies for rural areas are as follow :—

Axmouth.	Class 2—3.
Beer.	Class 3.
Colyton.	Class 1.
Combyne.	Class 3.
Lyme Regis Water Co.	Class 1.

The Combyne supply has given trouble over the past year and instructions were given for work to be carried out to the collecting area ; this supply is now greatly improved. Samples of water have been taken monthly to keep a check on the purity of this supply.

The East Devon Water Board are continually extending their mains within the district and gradually the situation with regard to piped water supplies is steadily improving.

Sewerage

The Uplyme Sewerage Scheme is in progress and when completed it is hoped that a vast improvement will be made in connection with flush drainage in this area and that drainage nuisances will be in the main abated.

No commencement has yet been made on the Musbury and Kilminster Sewerage Schemes and there is an urgent need for these schemes to be proceeded with.

Meat and other Foods

Three out of the four slaughterhouses licensed in the district have been regularly used for killing and the following are details of carcasses inspected over the year :—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	302	36	829	125
All diseases except T.B.				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	—	2	1
T.B. only				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	7

Also during the year the following food was condemned :—
Frozen Beef, 112lb.; Fresh Beef, 197lb.; Veal, 18½lb.; Pork, 206½lb.;
Tinned Meat, 165lb.; other tinned food, 18lb.

Ice Cream

No action has been necessary with regard to Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, as no Ice Cream is manufactured in the district.

Food and Drugs Act

1. *Number of Food Premises—*

Type	No. in Area	No. Inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers	42	23
(b) Butchers	10	10
(c) Bakers	11	9
(d) Fishmongers	4	4
(e) Confectioners	6	4
(f) Restaurants	13	10

2. *Number of Premises registered under Section 14—*

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	...	10
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only (Pre-packed)	...	48
(c) Fish Frying	...	3

3. *Number of Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations (1949)*

...	5
-----	---

4. *Inspection of Registered Premises—*

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	...	10
Sale of Ice Cream only	...	26
Fish Frying	...	3
(b) Inspection of other premises handling food (See paragraph 1)	...	60

5. *Disposal of Condemned Food—*

- (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
- (b) Meat—by incineration.

Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

Camping

During the summer months a tremendous amount of camping is done within the district and there are many organised camps controlled by associations and such organisations as Scouts, etc. These camps have always been well kept and there has been no cause to find any complaint.

There are also four sites within the district where caravanning is carried on and during the past year great improvement has been made with the erection of sanitary blocks at Beer and Colyton sites resulting in a vast improvement in the camping facilities in the district.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection throughout the whole district has continued satisfactorily and there is very little of note to report.

Rodent Control

The part-time Rodent Operator has continued to keep his district inspected and carried out all necessary treatments. The rat

population is steadily decreasing and, therefore, it is even more necessary that control be exercised now that the rodent problem is well in hand.

Housing

The old American Hospital Camp at Chard Road, Axminster, is now partly demolished and it is hoped that demolition will be completed in the very near future. This should go a long way to raising the standards of housing in the district.

This camp has well served its purpose for temporary housing and a period of ten years after the war is a long enough period for these circumstances to be tolerated.

Since the end of the war 513 houses have been erected throughout the district, making a total of 887 houses with those erected pre-war. These are under my department's management and control. There are also 72 converted flats used as temporary housing accommodation.

Rural Housing Survey

During the ten month period of the year 225 houses were inspected and records and specifications of work necessary were compiled. There are still part of two parishes to be completed and it is hoped that these will be completed before the end of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(not included in the above)

1. Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 32
2. Number of Dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ... 4

Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... 21

Factories Act, 1937

Factories	No. in Register	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served
Mechanical	68	36	1
Non-mechanical	9	5	—
Number of Outworkers	22		

General Inspections

Dairies	5
Disinfection following Infectious Diseases	3
Water Supplies	19
Inspection of Drains	24
Condemned Food, Visits and Re-visits	31
Petroleum Inspections	41
Public Health Act, Section 269 (Caravans)	17
Inspections—Public Health Act 1936 (Section 91 etc.)	53
Rodent Inspections	38
Miscellaneous (Explosives Act, etc.)	16

HONITON BOROUGH

Area	...	...	...	3,134 acres
Population	...	...	...	4,550
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£34,863
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£135 12 4

Deaths

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1954—(26 Males, 19 Females)	...	...	...	...	45
1955—(25 Males, 30 Females)	...	...	...	...	55

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1954—(24 Males, 29 Females)	...	...	...	...	53
2 illegitimate births were registered.					
1955—(21 Males, 35 Females)	...	...	...	...	56
2 illegitimate births were registered.					

Still Births

1954—1 Still Birth was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1955—1 Still Birth was registered	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1954—1 Death was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1955—1 Death was registered	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1954—1 Death was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1955—0 Deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified in 1955 :—

	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Diphtheria	1	0
Whooping Cough	37	30
Measles	15	88
Erysipelas	1	1
Pneumonia	11	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	5	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 134

Infectious Disease

As you will note from the Chart, no cases of Polio or Diphtheria were reported.

Measles, 88 cases and Whooping Cough 30, were well above the average, but this is rather in keeping with the fact that every four or five years we get these epidemics, and as soon as all the children have been affected, we get a quiescent period, until more reach the prevalent age for these Infections.

Slum Clearance

I still hold to the opinion, after a survey of the Town, that there is very little to be done in the way of Slum Clearance. The majority of the lower standard houses can be greatly improved and brought more in keeping with modern ideas. We are not like big cities, where you have hundreds of back-to-back houses in a shocking state.

Handling of Food

I have noted a great improvement in the handling of food. I have persevered in getting shop attendants to wear clean overalls or aprons, and this is gradually being realised by most shopkeepers as an essential factor in food service.

Under the new Clean Food Act we shall have more power, and I hope to see a still greater improvement.

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered were 55, this does not include deaths at Marl pits Hospital, which are mostly non-residents of the Borough, so are now excluded from the Borough figures proper.

Birth Rate.—The increase of births is also due to the large number of confinements taking place in Marl pits Hospital. 56 births were recorded in 1955 as against 53 in 1954.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1954	1955
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	4
Leukaemia	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	6	15
Other Heart Disease	7	7
Other Circulatory Disease	2	2
Pneumonia	0	1
Bronchitis	4	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	1

Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	4	1
Motor Accident	...	...	...	0	0
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	7	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	0	3
Influenza	...	...	...	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	1	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion	...	...	...	0	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	1
Suicide	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	0
Gastritis	...	...	...	1	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				45	55

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1955 Council Houses

Permanent Pre-War Houses	...	...	...	137
Permanent Post-War Houses	...	...	...	167
(Prefabricated Houses 12)				
				<hr/>
Total				304

The Jerrards Estate is now being developed, a total of 49 houses being erected.

Water Supplies

The Borough is supplied with water from the East Devon Water Board and a considerable length of new mains have been laid or renewed during the year.

Sewage Disposal

Matters are now proceeding in respect of the Council purchasing the War Department works and when this is completed the new scheme will be considered.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Regular weekly refuse collections are made throughout the Borough. Controlled tipping is carried out on land owned by the Council.

Rodent Control

The Council employ a part-time rat catcher.

Public Conveniences

Public conveniences are provided in the town.

Bakehouses

There are six bakehouses in the town and these are kept in a good state. One bakehouse has closed down during the year.

Food Poisoning

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

Factories and Workshops

There are 48 factories and workshops on the register. Notices have been given in respect of one of these premises.

Ice Cream Regulations

Premises selling ice cream are registered. There is no ice cream manufactured by the "Hot Mix" method.

Food and Drugs Act, 1954

Action is being taken in respect of the New Act and also the general hygiene of premises and food stores.

Slaughterhouses

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the Town. See attached appendix report.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	...	986	190	755	4,262	17,773
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned .		2	5	2	7	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .		30	8	—	17	324
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	3%	6%	—	.2%	3%
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcases condemned .		9	1	—	—	71
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .		8	3	—	—	206
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis		1.75%	2%	—	—	2%
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .		1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—

R. B. BAILEY, Sanitary Inspector.

March, 1956.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	61,265 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	6,950
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£32,131
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£129

Infectious Disease

Like all other Districts, the Rural Area had its share of Measles and Whooping Cough. Measles 73 cases and Whooping Cough 50 were reported, otherwise the District was remarkably free from Infectious Disease.

Three very mild cases of Food Poisoning do not call for comment, and there was one case of Polio. This was a Paralytic case of a very mild type, which recovered very quickly under treatment.

I think with these exceptions, we can be quite satisfied with our health report.

Infectious Disease

	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	0	2
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	19	50
Measles	7	73
Pneumonia	11	12
Erysipelas	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1
Food Poisoning	0	3
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 142

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1954—(56 Males, 42 Females)	...	...	...	98
1955—(36 Males, 37 Females)	...	...	...	73

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1954—(50 Males, 48 Females)	...	...	...	98
1955—(67 Males, 55 Females)	...	...	...	122

The number of illegitimate births registered was 4, and are included in the above total of 122.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1954—4 deaths were registered	...	...	...	4
1955—1 death was registered	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1954—4 deaths were registered	...	...	...	4
1955—1 death was registered (illegitimate)	...	...	...	1

Still Births

1954—1 Still Birth was registered	1
1955—3 Still Births were registered (1 illegitimate) ...	3

Births.—These show a big increase, 122 as compared with 99 in 1954.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered was 73, as compared with 98 in 1954.

The chief causes of death were :—	1954	1955
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
Other Tuberculosis	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	2
Leukaemia	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	23	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1
Other Heart Disease	26	14
Other Circulatory Disease	5	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1
Pneumonia	2	0
Bronchitis	5	2
Influenza	0	0
Duodenal Ulcer	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	14	10
Motor Accidents	1	1
Suicide	1	1
All Other Accidents	0	1
Nephritis	0	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	0	0
Diarrhoea	0	0
Congenital Malformation	0	1
Diabetes	1	3
	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 73

I have pleasure in appending Mr. Baxfield's Report, who has done a fine job of work.

Meat and Food Inspection

No slaughterhouses are operating in this rural district. Assistance in meat inspection has, however, been rendered to the Borough Council during Mr. Bailey's absence and details of condemnations, etc., were handed to that authority.

All premises where food is prepared were visited during the year and no serious defects were noted.

Refuse Collection

Controlled tipping has been practised during the year on the three refuse tips in the rural district.

Following representations to the Council, notices are being prepared for circulation throughout the rural district requiring the provision of regulation dustbins under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Rodent Control

Inspections have been carried out throughout the year and the necessary treatment completed at all properties in the Council's ownership. All infestations at private dwellinghouses notified during the year have been treated satisfactorily. Routine treatment and testing of sewers has also been carried out and no heavy infestations have been noted anywhere in the rural district.

Housing

During the year sixteen new Council houses were completed. Twelve houses have been completed by private enterprise and fifteen premises improved with the aid of improvement grants.

The access road to the Awliscombe housing site was modified during the year to provide for safer access and egress.

Water Supplies

Water supplies are under the control of the East Devon Water Board and I understand that satisfactory supplies have been effected throughout the year.

Work commenced on the extension of the main at Branscombe.

Sewage Disposal

As in previous years, extensive work has been carried out on sewage disposal schemes. The scheme for Wilmington was completed in January and work is at present in hand on the sewer extension for Branscombe. Schemes were prepared for the parishes of Offwell and Yarcombe and were the subject of a local inquiry. The Combe Raleigh scheme was approved by the Ministry and work will be commenced early in 1956. The Plymtree sewage scheme was also approved but authority has not yet been given to go to tender. Work was also commenced on the survey and drawings for the Payhembury village scheme.

Ice Cream Regulations

Twelve premises are now registered in accordance with the regulations for the sale of pre-packed ice cream and all have been inspected during the year.

Visits

The following is a summary of visits carried out during the year :—

Water Supplies	...	...	...	37
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	483
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	53
Rodent Control	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	47
Building Inspections	...	...	...	195
Town and Country Planning	...	...	...	186

F. J. BAXFIELD,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Area	1,190 acres
Population	2,930
Rateable Value	£36,021
Penny Rate produces	£141 5 8

Deaths

1954—(29 Males, 37 Females)	66
1955—(35 Males, 37 Females)	72

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1954—(11 Males, 12 Females)	23
0 illegitimate births were registered.	
1955—(19 Males, 14 Females)	33
3 illegitimate births are included in the 33 registered.	

Still Births

1954—0 were registered	0
1955—0 were registered	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1954—0 were registered	0
1955—0 were registered	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1954—0 were registered	0
1955—0 were registered	0

Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	0	3
Puerpural Pyrexia	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Measles	1	0
Pneumonia	5	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Dysentery	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1
Food Poisoning	0	1
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 9

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered from all causes were 72 as compared with 66 in 1954. The cause of death were :—

	1954	1955
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0
Other Tubercular Disease	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	5
Diabetes	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	8	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	10	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	0
Other Heart Disease	27	17
Other Circulatory Disease	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis	2	1
Gastritis	0	2
Nephritis	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	3	7
Accidents—Motor	1	2
Other Accidents	0	3
Suicide	1	0
Influenza	0	0
Leukaemia	0	0
	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 92

Infectious Diseases

The number of notifications received are again extraordinarily low, especially so as Measles were very prevalent in the surrounding areas, and although I receive a large number of notifications from the Seaton doctors for areas adjoining Seaton, yet for Seaton itself, no cases of Measles were notified. I am entirely dependant on the medical men in Seaton for their carrying out the Notification Acts, and as so few have been received, I have again drawn their attention to the necessity of all cases being notified to me.

However, leaving out the question of Measles, the record still stands as a wonderful health report.

Housing

Good progress has been made and the leeway is being rapidly made up.

I have much pleasure in presenting the report of your Sanitary Inspector, who has again done an excellent job of work.

Annual Report for the year 1955

The following visits either by myself or my Assistant have been made during the year :—

	Visits	Revisits	Total
Public Health—General	146	102	248
Rooms Disinfected	1	—	1
Infectious Disease	1	—	1
Refuse and Salvage	15	—	15
Camping Sites	23	—	23
Complaints Investigated	125	—	125
Rodent Control	5	—	5
Water Supplies	97	2	99
Water Samples	3	—	3
Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal ...	137	7	144
Public Conveniences	13	—	13
Housing—General	72	9	81
Council Houses and Sites	268	6	274
Inspections Regulations	18	—	18
Re: Housing Applications	13	—	13
Inspections for Valuations	8	1	9
Inspections for Improvement Grants ...	2	3	5
Food and Drugs—Section 14	10	—	10
Section 13	34	4	38
Milk and Dairies	9	—	9
Meat and Food Inspection	41	—	41
Building Byelaws (New Buildings) ...	283	—	283
Drains Tested	72	—	72
Meteorological Readings	365	—	365
Petroleum Regulations and Explosions	27	9	36
Factories	19	1	20
Shops Act	1	—	1
Miscellaneous (Assistant only) ...	373	—	373
Interviews (Assistant only)	185	—	185
	<hr/> 2366	<hr/> 144	<hr/> 2510

Housing

A further 19 Council houses were built and finished during the year, and at the time of going to press (1956) the balance of 12 houses in Elizabeth Road are finished, thus completing the development of that Estate.

The Seaton Housing Society completed another 8 houses.

Private Houses built and finished numbered 15.

The necessary action under the Housing Act of 1954 continues to be dealt with informally and the Council has already received a proposal for reconditioning 2 old houses and so bring them up to the required standard.

The conversion of one house into 3 flats was the subject of an improvement grant.

Water Supply

A 3in. branch main from Bunts Lane was laid during the year. The quality of the water has remained excellent from the Holyford Works but the loss of water through the embankment of the top intake is the cause of some concern as also the nightly consumption or waste through the mains and service pipes in the Town.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new Sewage works is now working at full capacity and with no reserve facilities. The Sewerage of the Town draining to the Eastern Outfall is receiving the very earnest attention of the Council, and the Council's Consulting Engineers are engaged upon the preparation of a new scheme for partial re sewerage and partial treatment prior to discharge to a suitable outfall in the river.

Dairies, Food Shops and Slaughterhouses

I regret that we have not been able to give more time to the inspection of Food Shops and with the new Food Regulations now in force it is hoped to intensify our efforts in this direction.

Only occasional slaughtering is done at Seaton at the one licensed Slaughterhouse. See appendix for particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned.

Ice Cream

There are 24 retailers of Ice Cream.

Refuse Collection and Salvage

Refuse continues to be deposited at the Beer tip. The collection of waste paper for salvage continues but the market price is low and at the moment uneconomical from the Council's point of view.

Public Health Nuisances

70 complaints were received—many of these were dealt with informally, but one Statutory Notice was issued.

Rodents

The treatment of rats in buildings and in sewers continues and has had to be intensified—but there are no major infestations.

General

This is the first year in which I have had the help of a qualified Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Karslake, and it will be observed that it has thus been possible to carry out many more inspections than hitherto although at the same time the clerical work of the office has increased.

Royal Sanitary Institute Conference at Bournemouth

I wish to record and thank the Seaton Urban Council for sending me to the above Conference.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

		Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	4	—	1	8	20
Number inspected	...	4	—	1	8	20

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	2	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci, ...	50%	—	—	25%	—

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcases condemned .	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis ...	25%	—	—	—	5%

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

P. R. BRADLEY,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

